

Animas, NM 88020

Albert Lama
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Drawer 1508
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Albert Lama,

For the better part of the past two years, while attending school board meetings in the Animas School District, I have felt that there were occasions where the Open Meetings Act had possibly been violated or at the very best, the principal behind the law had been stretched. I do realize that these accusations would be difficult to prove, so I never felt like challenging the board or superintendent. However, I did point out to the board president on a couple of occasions that there were things not done properly according to the Open Meetings Act.

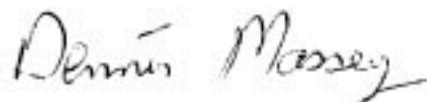
Two weeks ago, at the regular monthly board meeting, there was a blatant violation. On the agenda, there was a policy change that the board was to vote on. The possible policy change had been presented in the February meeting for consideration, and action on this policy was to be taken at the March meeting.

The policy in question was implemented five years ago, requiring certified teachers to have a BA + 45 hours, or a Masters Degree within five years. Any newly hired teachers would have five years from the date of initial employment to comply with the policy. If the requirements were not met by the appropriate time frame, the teacher would no longer be employed. Currently, the policy will cause the termination of one certified teacher. While the superintendent had repeatedly stated this isn't about personnel, the board president has tried (unsuccessfully) to do away with the policy, on more than one occasion, in order to keep this teacher.

When it came time to vote on said policy in the March meeting, the board president said that she wasn't comfortable putting it to a vote, and wanted to discuss the matter in executive session first. When the board came out of executive session, they voted to keep the policy with an amendment added to it.

This board and superintendent are not conducting the school's business properly, and this is wrong. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter. I can be reached at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (anytime) or at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (evenings).

Sincerely,



Dennis Massey